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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,330	04/14/2005	Toshihiro Hosaka	0283-0211PUS1	7849
2292	7590	06/07/2007	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			FREISTEIN, ANDREW B	
PO BOX 747				
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/07/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/531,330	HOSAKA ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Andrew B. Freistein	1626		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed 04/23/2007 changes the scope of the claims. As a result, the previous office action is vacated.

Claims 1-25 are currently pending in the instant application.

Priority

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP03/13194, filed 10/15/2002.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

Lack of Unity Requirement

Claims 1-25 are drawn to more than one inventive concept (as defined by PCT Rule 13), and accordingly, a restriction is required according to the provision of PCT Rule 13.2.

PCT Rule 13.2 states that the international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (requirement of unity of invention).

PCT Rule 13.2 states unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

Annex B, Part 1 (b), provides that "special technical features" mean those technical features, which, as a whole, define a contribution over the prior art.

Annex B, Part 1 (e), provides combinations of different categories of claims and states:

"The method for determining unity of invention under Rule 13 shall be construed as permitting, in particular, the inclusion of any one of the following combinations of claims of different categories in the same international application:

- (i) in addition to an independent claim for a given product, an independent claims for a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an independent claim for use of the said product, or
- (ii) in addition to an independent claim for a given process, an independent claim for an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the said process, or
- (iii) in addition to an independent claim for a given product, and independent claim for a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an independent claim for an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the said process,..."

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Due to numerous and widely divergent variables in the compound of Formula (I), for example: A, R1, R2, R3, and R4, a precise listing of inventive groups cannot be made. The following groups are exemplary:

Group I: Claims 1-9, 24 and 25 (in part), drawn to a method for prophylaxis or treatment of a disease against which a large conductance calcium-activated K channel opening activity is efficacious, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) wherein A is thiophene; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group (see Spec., examples 9, 10, 15-18, 43-44).

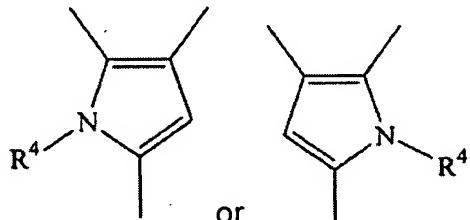
Group II: Claims 1-9, 24 and 25 (in part), drawn to a method for prophylaxis or treatment of a disease against which a large conductance calcium-activated K channel opening activity is efficacious, which comprises administering an effective amount of a

compound of formula (I) wherein A is thiophene; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group (see Spec., examples 19-22, 33-34, 37-38).

Group III: Claims 1-9, 24 and 25 (in part), drawn to a method for prophylaxis or treatment of a disease against which a large conductance calcium-activated K channel opening activity is efficacious, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) wherein A is thiophene; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl group (see Spec., examples 11-12 and 23-24).

Group IV: Claims 1-9, 24 and 25 (in part), drawn to a method for prophylaxis or treatment of a disease against which a large conductance calcium-activated K channel opening activity is efficacious, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) wherein A is furan; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group (see Spec., examples 31-32, 35-36, 57-60).

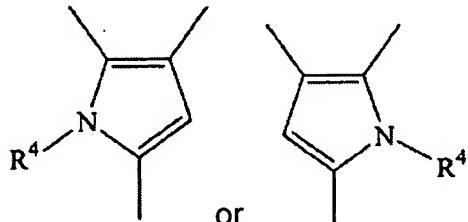
Group V: Claims 1-9, 24 and 25 (in part), drawn to a method for prophylaxis or treatment of a disease against which a large conductance calcium-activated K channel opening activity is efficacious, which comprises administering an effective amount of a



compound of formula (I) wherein A is thiophene; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group (see Spec., examples 19-22, 33-34, 37-38).

or unsubstituted phenyl group; and R⁴ is H or alkyl (see Spec., pp. 64-65, examples 5-10, and 18-21).

Group VI: Claims 1-9, 24 and 25 (in part), drawn to a method for prophylaxis or treatment of a disease against which a large conductance calcium-activated K channel opening activity is efficacious, which comprises administering an effective amount of a



compound of formula (I) wherein A is ; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group; and R⁴ is H or alkyl (see Spec., pp. 64-65, examples 11-14, 23-26).

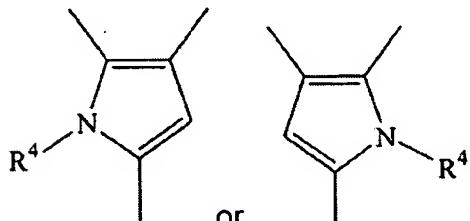
Group VII: Claims 1-9, 24 and 25 (in part), drawn to a method for prophylaxis or treatment of a disease against which a large conductance calcium-activated K channel opening activity is efficacious, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I), containing compounds not encompassed in Groups I - VI. If this group is elected, Applicant is requested to elect a single species for search purposes. This group is subject to further restriction, if elected.

Group VIII: Claims 10-23, drawn to a product of formula (I) wherein A is thiophene; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group.

Group IX: Claims 10-23, drawn to a product of formula (I) wherein A is thiophene; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group.

Group X: Claims 10-23, drawn to a product of formula (I) wherein A is furan; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl or pyrimidinyl group.

Group XI: Claims 10-23, drawn to a product of formula (I) wherein A is



or ; R¹ is thiophene; R² is an alkyl group substituted with a carboxy group; and R³ is a substituted or unsubstituted phenyl group; and R⁴ is H or alkyl.

Group XII: Claims 10-23, drawn to a product of formula (I) containing compounds not encompassed in Groups VIII-XI. If this group is elected, Applicant is requested to elect a single species for search purposes. This group is subject to further restriction, if elected.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted. As stated above, this is not an exhaustive list, as it would be impossible to produce such a list under the time constraints due to the large volume of subject matter claimed in this application.

The claims herein lack unity of invention under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 because, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.475(a) **Groups I-XII** lack unity of invention since under 37 CFR 1.475:

Where a group of inventions is claimed in an application, the requirement of unity of invention shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical feature among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features...those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

The structural moiety common to **Groups I-XII** is ring A. This technical feature is not a special technical feature, because it fails to define a contribution over the prior art.



For example, Katz et al. disclose the compound:

(see Katz et

al., STN International, HCPLUS Database, Columbus, OH, Accession No. 2002:115753, Reg. No. 83495-30-1 (2007)). Therefore, claims 1-25 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept and there is a lack of unity of invention. The variables vary extensively and when taken as a whole result in vastly different compounds. Additionally, the vastness of the claimed subject matter and the complications in understanding the claimed subject matter impose a serious burden on any examination of the claimed subject matter.

Because the claims do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and lack the same or corresponding special technical features, the claims lack unity of invention and should be limited to a product, a process for the manufacture of said product, or a method of use.

Furthermore, with respect to **Groups I-XII**, even if unity of invention under 37 CFR 1.475(a) is not lacking, under 37 CFR 1.475(b) a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations:

- (1) A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or
- (2) A product and process of use of said product; or
- (3) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and a use of the said product; or
- (4) A process and an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the said process; or
- (5) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the said process.

Moreover, according to 37 CFR 1.475(c),

If an application contains claims to more or less than one of the combinations of categories of invention set forth in paragraph (b), unity of invention might not be present.

In the instant case the claims are drawn to more than one product, process, and method of use. According to 37 CFR 1.475(e),

The determination whether a group of inventions is so linked as to form a single general inventive concept shall be made without regard to whether the inventions are claimed in separate claims or as alternatives within a single claim.

As a result, the claims lack unity of invention and applicant is required to elect a single invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even if the restriction requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew B. Freistein whose telephone number is (571) 272-8515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph M^cKane can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Andrew B. Freistein
Patent Examiner, AU 1626



Rebecca Anderson
Primary Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1626
Date: May 23, 2007